

Rural District of Warwick.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1946,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

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August, 1947.

To the Warwick Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1946, this is the 28th Annual Report I have presented to you.

As in the past few years this Report is restricted to a statement of facts, but a more extended report is given by the Sanitary Inspector.

Kindness has been extended to me by members of the Council and my colleagues, for which I am most grateful.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Warwick Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1946	...	...	17,800
Birth Rate	...	...	14.8
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	19
Death Rate	...	...	9.5
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis „ other causes		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	61
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			58
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	95
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

Population.—17,800 ; this estimate is 50 less than the figure given by the Registrar General for 1945.

Birth Rate.—14.8 per 1,000 is slightly higher than that for 1945, but much less than the figure for England and Wales for 1946, which was 19.1 per 1,000.

Death Rate.—9.5 per 1,000, less than the figure for England and Wales, viz. 11.5 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—61 per 1,000 births, much higher than the England and Wales figure for 1946, 43 per 1,000 births. It is interesting to note that 11 out of the 16 deaths in infants under 1 year, were due to premature birth or congenital conditions.

Details of statistics for the past few years, together with those for England and Wales in 1946, are given in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) *Public Health Officers.*—

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.—E. Arthur Lyne, M.S.I.A., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.—S. C. Whitehead, M.S.I.A., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Mr. Sholto Douglas continued to act as part-time Water Engineer.

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.		Negative.		Total.
Diphtheria	...	1	...	7	8
Enteric Fever	—	...	—	...	—
Tuberculosis	...	2	...	5	7
					—
					15
					—

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water*.—The supply at Radford has continued to be satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. The Borough of Leamington is being supplied from this scheme, together with water from the Whitnash supply, at the combined rate of approximately three million gallons per month.

(ii) Samples for bacteriological examinations have been submitted for both raw and treated water, and have proved satisfactory.

One sample for chemical analysis was taken.

(iii) Water from both sources is chlorinated.

(iv) (a) 1,590 houses out of a total of 4,673, comprising approximately one-third of the estimated population, are supplied with water direct from the public mains.

(b) There are no public standpipe supplies.

(v) Water supplies in areas not covered by the public service were short in places, and in a few instances wells were completely dry. The Council alleviated the position somewhat by arranging for free distribution from a water cart.

2. The Geological survey mentioned in my last report has been completed. As a result the Council are negotiating for the purchase of a borewell, known as “ Keytes Well,” Shrewley and contemplating the sinking of a bore in Rowington to provide a comprehensive water supply scheme for the western area.

3. *Water Supply Extension*.—The Radford water mains have been extended outside the village to supply a number of farms and the Whitnash scheme has been extended to the Parish of Bishops Tachbrook. A number of other extensions are contemplated ; that to Blackdown has been completed.

4. *Drainage and Sewerage*.—While there are no changes to report, a number of sewage schemes are being prepared.

5. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—There is no change to report.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—Reference is made to this in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector which follows.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual tables have been compiled and are being kept for record purposes.

4. *Overcrowding*.—There is little to add to my last report. Overcrowding has, however, abated somewhat

6. The following table shows the first instalment of the Housing Programme. Upon completion of the Rural Housing Survey, other instalments will be prepared.

		<i>T.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>P.</i>
Bishops Tachbrook...		10	—	—
				76
Whitnash	...	10	—	40
Radford Semele	...	10	4	72
Offchurch	...	—	—	16
Hunningham	...	—	—	18
Eathorpe	...	—	—	8
Weston-under- Weatherley	...	—	—	8
Cubbington	...	10	—	103
Baginton	...	—	—	24
Stoneleigh	...	—	2	36
Ashow	...	—	—	4
Old Milverton	...	—	—	6
Leek Wootton	...	—	—	22
Wasperton, Barford and Sherbourne		—	—	52
Norton Lindsey	...	—	—	8
Budbrooke	...	—	—	18
Hatton	...	—	—	30
Shrewley	...	—	2	8
Lowsonford	...	—	2	15
Rowington	...	—	—	20
Lapworth	...	—	—	16
				12
Baddesley Clinton	...	—	—	8
Beausale	...	—	2	10
		—	—	—
Totals	...	40	12	630
		—	—	—

T. Temporary. *S.* Swedish. *P.* Permanent.

The Housing Survey is proceeding as expeditiously as possible, but it was quite impossible to complete it by December 31st, 1946. Every endeavour will be made to complete it in 1947.

7. *Fitness of Houses.*—The general condition of houses after six years of war, is, as is only to be expected, on the poor side. Many condemned cottages are, unfortunately, still occupied and will need to be occupied for some time yet.

Building Licences for essential repairs were issued during the year to the value of £106,452, as compared with £11,278 in 1945.

7. *Temporary Dwellings.*—The temporary hutments, many erected during the war as shelters, are still with us, and, unfortunately, have to serve as dwellings. It is hoped that the time is not too far distant when these structures can be removed and the occupants properly housed.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This is dealt with in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1939.

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1940	...	—	10	17	3	18	—	1
1941	...	—	37	18	2	52	—	2
1942	...	—	11	13	—	17	—	—
1943	...	—	16	19	—	22	—	1
1944	...	—	8	30	—	9	—	—
1945	...	—	9	48	—	13	—	1
1946	...	—	5	16	—	6	—	2

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1946.

Scarlet Fever.—The 16 cases notified were well distributed throughout the district.

Diphtheria.—It is interesting to note that all the five cases notified were in adults, and none had been immunised. Two occurred at the Central Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During the year immunisation of the school children continued, and up to December 31st, 1,608 children between 5 and 15 years had been treated, also 784 under 5 years, a total of 2,392.

School Closures.—Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
			M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	—	2	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
15	1	3	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
25	1	4	...	—	—	...	1	2	...	—	—
35	2	2	...	—	—	...	1	1	...	—	—
45	—	1	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
55	2	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
TOTALS			...	6	12	...	1	—	...	4	3	...	—	—

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Warwick Rural District during the past 20 years :—

TUBERCULOSIS.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Cases ...	16	13	12	9	10	16	14
Deaths	6	7	10	6	5	6	7
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases ...	8	11	20	20	22	23	18
Deaths	3	7	6	5	7	4	3
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
Cases ...	27	12	22	11	26	19	
Deaths	6	2	4	4	4	7	

During the year 19 new cases of tuberculosis have been notified, 18 of which were of pulmonary and 1 of other forms of tuberculosis.

Sanatorium.—During the year 7 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, and 3 were discharged.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my 12th Annual Report for the year ending December, 1946.

Civil Building Licensing.

Civil Building licences issued were to the value of £76,575 for new houses; £25,513 in respect of repairs; and £5,364 for work other than housing; a total of £106,452.

Since it has been necessary to obtain a licence for repairs exceeding £10, this work has thrown a great strain on the department. It has involved several hundred visits and journeys, together with hundreds of telephone calls and office interviews. The strain on the clerical staff, who have had to take the full share of the considerable office work associated with licensing, has been no less severe. It is unfortunate also that the greater the number of refusals, so the office work increases by explanatory letters, appeals, and reports to Ministries, and the number of forms which have to be signed are very considerable.

Public Cleansing.

Progress in the Public Cleansing Department has been disappointing. The new vehicles which should have been delivered in June, did not arrive until late in the year, and the labour position has not improved as much as was hoped. Two men returned from the Forces, these have been a great help, but suitable new recruits are not forthcoming. Emptying dustbins is arduous work and men should be strong and active, but notwithstanding the higher wages now paid, the type of men required can find more congenial work elsewhere. Young prisoners of war have, fortunately, been available, but it is uncertain as to how long they can be retained. Another difficulty is to find suitable tips, which are rather scarce in this district.

It is the policy of the Council to extend the public cleansing service to all villages in the district. Sufficient vehicles have been ordered and are expected in the near future, but there is naturally some reluctance, and wisely so, to embark on a general cleansing service until the labour and disposal problems are solved. At present the following parishes are cleansed :—Baginton, Barford, Cubbington, Lapworth, Leek Wootton, Radford, Sherbourne, Stoneleigh, Whitnash.

The collection of nightsoil and emptying of cesspools has been well maintained. It has been fortunate that it has been possible to retain the two men employed on this work throughout the war. The machine used has done very good service, but the time is not far distant when it will have to be replaced.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There have been 18 applications for registration under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. In a large number of cases registration was deferred pending the completion of work necessary to bring the premises up to the required standard. It is to be regretted that, whilst other authorities connected with milk

advise producers that they must be registered, nevertheless, milk is accepted from unregistered premises by the Milk Marketing Board, which action does to some degree offset the useful power of registration possessed by the Local Authority. The urgency of the need of making available all possible supplies of milk is at once conceded, but it is the responsibility of the prospective producer to set his premises in order before he installs cows in milk.

The County Council has issued 50 licences to accredited producers in this district, a decrease of 12 compared with last year, and 21 licences to producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk, an increase of 7.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Visits have been made in connection with emergency slaughter and cottagers' pigs, and to canteens and shops, a small quantity of food has been surrendered as set out in Table 1.

Temporary Housing.

The district received its share in the so-called Squatter movement. Three camps were taken over, one at Finham, Stoneleigh; one at Stareton, Stoneleigh; and the other at Blackdown. The latter two have been well maintained by the occupants, but the Finham Camp is a disgrace. Some of those occupying Finham Camp were utterly irresponsible and destructive. Huts were smashed, sinks and other fittings removed; quarrels were frequent and the police had to be called in on at least one occasion. Not all of the "squatters" were of the irresponsible type. Some tried to form a working committee to govern the camp, but after an attempt to enforce order, the effort was spoiled by those who would not subject themselves to voluntary discipline. Camp committees were formed at the other two camps and still function very well. The Council in response to a request of the Ministry of Health, provided water and sanitation. Certain alterations are contemplated to improve the amenities, and a specification of works has been drawn up for submission to the Ministry of Health. The proposals consist briefly of:—Partitions to huts, provision of separate lavatories, coal-houses, stand pipe water supply, new cooking ranges and other incidental works, at an estimated cost of:—

Blackdown ...	£360.
Stareton ...	£880.
Finham ...	£3,100.

Plans.

Plans submitted under Byelaws were as follows:—

Permanent houses ...	174
Temporary houses ...	5
Garages and miscellaneous ...	58

Sanitary Services.

The provision of sanitary services over the greater part of the district has been the subject, by the Council and its appropriate Committees, of a great deal of thought. The most ambitious scheme is that known as the Western Area Water Scheme. Other schemes which are in course of preparation by the Consulting Engineers are:—

- Barford water supply.
- Barford and Sherbourne Sewage.
- Bishops Tachbrook Sewage.
- Baginton Sewage.
- Cubbington, Offchurch and Radford Sewage.

Considerable progress has also been made by the Consultant Architects in the preparation of the Housing Schemes, which are enumerated elsewhere.

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative, known formerly as a rat catcher, has operated throughout the year. His chief difficulty is lack of suitable transport. The operator spends approximately half his time in inspections of likely rat and mice infestations, and the remainder in rat destruction. The methods employed are those advocated by the Ministry of Food and they are undoubtedly satisfactory to all concerned, excepting the rats.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. LYNE,
Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisance Abated after Notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal	
*Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	447	19	130	123
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds ...	194	—	29	24
Bakehouses	2	—	1	1
Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops	4	—	—	—
Ashpits and privies	41	—	—	—
Food Preparation Premises ...	49	—	—	—
Ashbins substituted for Ashpits ...	22	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	5	—	—	—
Water Closets	3	—	3	3
House Drainage	49	—	26	26
Water Supply	98	—	30	24
Pigsties	4	—	4	4
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Factories	18	—	—	—
Shops	10	—	—	—
TOTALS	946	19	223	205

* Excluding visits in connection with Rural Housing Survey and Building Licences.

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food :—

Meat	150 lbs.
Canned Goods	76 tins.
Fish	6 cwt.
Flour	2 cwt.
Eggs	12 doz.
Dried Fruit	20 lbs.
Samples of Water taken for analysis ...	44
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	16
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	38

E. ARTHUR LYNE, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1946 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1940	16,340	249	15.2	7	26	167	10.2
1941	18,240	230	12.6	11	46	178	9.8
1942	18,440	297	16.1	5	17	137	7.5
1943	18,600	260	14.0	11	41	156	8.4
1944	19,120	311	16.3	9	29	140	7.3
1945	17,850	241	13.5	15	62	164	9.2
1946	17,800	263	14.8	16	61	169	9.5

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1946.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1946.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	19.1	0.53	11.5	43
126 Great Towns, including London			22.2	0.67	12.7	46
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	21.3	0.59	11.7	37
London	...	...	21.5	0.54	12.7	41

TABLE III.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1946.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	5			2	2	1		3		
Erysipelas	1				1					
Scarlet Fever	16	2	14					9		
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	3		1		1		1			
Pneumonia	6	1	1	1	1	2			7	
Malaria	1					1				
Dysentery	19		2	1	5	6	5			
Puerperal Pyrexia	2				2					
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3			3						
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	18	2		4	9	3			7	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1								
Totals	75	6	18	11	21	13	6	12	14	

TABLE IV.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	94	75
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	3
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	2
9 Influenza	1	1
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	3	1
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	4	—
15 Cancer of Breast	—	3
16 Cancer, other Sites	7	8
17 Diabetes	1	—
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	9	4
19 Heart Disease	28	19
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	7	3
21 Bronchitis	3	3
22 Pneumonia	1	6
23 Other Resp. Diseases	—	—
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	—	3
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	1
26 Appendicitis	1	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	3	3
28 Nephritis	2	2
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	3	5
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	3	—
33 Suicide	1	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	4	1
35 Other Violent Causes	1	3
36 All Other Causes	8	3

